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REMARKS FOR  
THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM WRYE  
MINISTER OF LABOUR  
GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN SUDBURY, ONTARIO

HELD AT

THE NORTHBURY HOTEL

10:00 A.M.

TUESDAY, 25TH MARCH 1986

NOTES ONLY.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE THIS MORNING. I'M PLEASED THAT YOU SHARE MY BELIEF THAT THIS IS A NEWSWORTHY EVENT.

LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING THAT THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR PLACES A HIGH PRIORITY ON REDUCING HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS ENCOUNTERED BY MINERS. WHILE ONTARIO MINERS HAVE ONE OF THE LOWEST FATALITY RATES IN THE WORLD, LABOUR, MANAGEMENT AND THE MINISTRY HAVE STRIVEN TO IDENTIFY AND ADOPT NEW CONTROL SYSTEMS.

THE \$4.2 MILLION GOVERNMENT - INDUSTRY ROCKBURST RESEARCH PROGRAM WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED LAST JUNE IS INDICATIVE OF THIS SHARED CONCERN.

TODAY'S REPORT OF THE GROUND CONTROL COMMITTEE IS THE MOST RECENT ILLUSTRATION OF HOW COLLABORATION CAN PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FUTURE HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE INDUSTRY.

THE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR. TREVOR STEVENSON, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOUR AND MANAGEMENT WAS APPOINTED IN 1984, SUBSEQUENT TO THE TRAGIC ROCKBURST IN FALCONBRIDGE # 5 SHAFT IN JUNE OF THAT YEAR. IT WAS CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF REPORTING ON APPROPRIATE CHANGES REGARDING GROUND CONTROL AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SYSTEMS IN THE MINING INDUSTRY. I AM PLEASED TO SHARE ITS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH YOU.

BEFORE SAYING MORE ABOUT THE REPORT, I DO WANT TO PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE AND THANK THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WHICH LENT SOME OF THEIR BEST MINDS TO SHARE IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

SPECIFICALLY,

- \* THE ONTARIO MINING ASSOCIATION
- \* THE CANADIAN BASE METAL WORKERS UNION
- \* THE MINE, MILL AND SMELTER WORKERS UNION - LOCAL 598
- \* THE UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
- \* FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL MINES LIMITED
- \* CAMPBELL RED LAKE MINES LIMITED
- \* THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WHICH NOT ONLY

CONTRIBUTED ONE THIRD OF THE COSTS OF THIS INQUIRY BUT ALSO LENT US THE EXPERTISE OF THE STAFF OF THE CANADA CENTER FOR MINERAL AND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.

AND FINALLY,

- \* THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY DIVISION OF MY OWN MINISTRY, PARTICULARLY THE MINING HEALTH AND SAFETY BRANCH.

FIRST MEETING ON OCTOBER 25TH, 1984, THE COMMITTEE SPENT A TOTAL OF 46 DAYS CONDUCTING PUBLIC HEARINGS AND DISCUSSIONS IN EVERY PART OF ONTARIO WHERE MINES EXIST. FIFTEEN MINES WERE VISITED. THE COMMITTEE CONSULTED WITH OPERATING MINING COMPANIES, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIONS, CANADIAN AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, MINING TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND WITH GROUPS INVOLVED IN MINING RESEARCH, WITH INDIVIDUALS NOTED FOR THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF GROUND CONTROL MATTERS, WITH MINING SCHOOLS AND, WITH UNIVERSITY FACULTIES OF ENGINEERING WITH PROGRAMS ON THE PARTICULAR SUBJECT BEING INVESTIGATED. FORTY-EIGHT BRIEFS AND COMMUNICATIONS WERE RECEIVED.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO RETAINED THE SERVICES OF SEVERAL WORLD RENOWNED CONSULTANTS TO INVESTIGATE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE STATE OF THE ART OF GROUND CONTROL AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, NOT ONLY IN ONTARIO, BUT IN CANADA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AS WELL, UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN ONTARIO AND THROUGHOUT CANADA WERE SURVEYED TO DETERMINE THE TRAINING GIVEN AND THE AVAILABILITY OF TRAINED ROCK MECHANICS PERSONNEL.

AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I'VE JUST OUTLINED, THE REPORT IS A COMPREHENSIVE ONE.

ITS 60 RECOMMENDATIONS ARE FORTHRIGHT AND FAR-REACHING. AMONG THEM ARE 11 KEY ITEMS:

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN GROUND CONTROL TO COORDINATE ON-GOING AND ADDITIONALLY RECOMMENDED RESEARCH.
2. IMPROVED TRAINING FOR MINERS, SUPERVISORS, WORKER INSPECTORS AND NON-MINERS WORKING UNDERGROUND.
3. IMPROVED ROCK MECHANICS PROGRAMS IN ONTARIO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.
4. IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ALL PARTIES IN THE WORK PLACE FOR ROUTINE AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND, IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.
5. MORE EMPHASIS ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MINE DESIGN WITH RESPECT TO ROCK MECHANICS.
6. EXPANDED MINE RESCUE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT FOR OTHER THAN FIRE EMERGENCIES.
7. IMPROVED FIRST AID QUALIFICATIONS AND REGULATIONS AS THEY APPLY TO UNDERGROUND MINING.
8. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MINE LIGHTING STANDARDS WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.
9. BETTER USE OF UNDERGROUND MONITORING EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY WHERE ROCKBURSTS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED.
10. AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN REVIEWING GROUND CONTROL DESIGNS AND PROCEDURES, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTRE BY THE MINISTRY TO HELP IT IN THIS WORK.
11. MANDATORY FALL-ON PROTECTION ON ALL VEHICLES OPERATING WHERE IT IS REQUIRED.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE ONLY JUST RECEIVED THE REPORT, I CAN TELL YOU WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, THROUGH MY MINISTRY, FULLY INTENDS TO ACCEPT IT AND ACT UPON IT. AS I HAVE SAID, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ARE OF ABSOLUTELY PRIME IMPORTANCE TO ME AND A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH I TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED.

TO ILLUSTRATE THE MINISTRY'S COMMITMENT TO THIS AREA, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS JUST BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER WHICH WE SHALL JOINTLY COOPERATE IN A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH IN ROCK MECHANICS AND GROUND CONTROL.

TAKING EFFECT ONE WEEK FROM TODAY, THIS AGREEMENT WILL INVOLVE THE U.S. BUREAU OF MINES, THE CANADA CENTRE FOR MINERAL AND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

TOGETHER, WE SHALL BE EXPLORING NEW TECHNIQUES FOR DETECTING GEOLOGIC ANOMALIES AND IMPENDING GROUND FAILURES AS WELL AS DEVELOPING IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE MINE FACE.

INITIALLY COVERING A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD BUT WITH OPTIONS TO EXTEND IT, THIS AGREEMENT WILL, I AM CONFIDENT, BE OF MAJOR BENEFIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES BUT ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING THROUGH MINING.

FINALLY, I NOW WANT TO THANK AND INTRODUCE TO YOU EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR TODAY'S REPORT.

FIRST, MR. RICK BRIGGS, PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 598, MINE, MILL AND SMELTER WORKERS UNION .....NEXT, MR. PETER CURTIS WHO IS STAFF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CANADIAN BASE METAL WORKERS UNION (C.N.T.U.)...  
..NEXT, MR. SIMON GUILLET, STAFF REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL OFFICE, UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA.....MR. DAVE MELLOR, STAFF REPRESENTATIVE, UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA.....MR. BRUCE CAMPBELL, MANAGER, TECHNICAL SERVICES OF THE ONTARIO MINING ASSOCIATION.....MR. STAN BHARTI, SUPERINTENDENT OF MINES TECHNICAL SERVICES, FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL MINES LTD.....

MR. STEWART REID, GENERAL MANAGER, CAMPBELL RED LAKE MINES LIMITED.....AND, MR. MILT JOWSEY, A CONSULTANT ON MINING AND MINE TRAINING..... LASTLY, MR. TREVOR STEVENSON CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, WHO WILL NOW TAKE YOU BRIEFLY THROUGH THE REPORT, AFTER WHICH WE SHALL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

TREVOR.....

